Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending and rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 1-2, 10, 15, 19, 22, and 27 have been amended. In addition, new claims 31-35 have been added. Thus, claims 1-35 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are not useful in technical art. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-30 are related to computer implemented methods and apparatuses that are well established as patentable. The present invention as claimed is related to conducting a search based on concept terms which is clearly useful in the art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,094,649 of Bowen et al. ("Bowen"). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-35 include limitations that are not disclosed by Bowen. Specifically, independent claim 1 as amended recites as follows:

1. A method comprising:
   receiving a search term for a query;
   searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the search term, the
      related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close
      relationship with the search term;
   reformulating the query using the search term and the related terms without
      performing a search for documents based on the search term;
   searching a local database for data terms that match the search term and the
      related terms, wherein the data terms are generated from documents
      residing on websites located on servers across a network based on a
      predetermined relationship between the search term and the related
      terms; and

in response to the data terms found in the local database, retrieving the
documents from the websites whose data terms match the search term
and the related terms.

(Emphasis added)

Independent claim 1 include limitations that in response to a search term, a concept
network is searched for the concept terms associated with the search term without performing
the search for documents for the search term. Once the concept terms associated with the
search term have been found, a new search query is reformulated based on the search term and
the concept terms associated with it. Then an actual search is conducted based on the
reformulated query having the original search term and the associated concept terms. It is
respectfully submitted that the above limitations are absent from Bowen.

Rather, Bowen is related to a conventional search that a search of documents is
conducted based on a search term without searching for the concept terms (e.g., conceptually
related terms) first. The examiner contends that section of col. 11, line 52 to col. 12, line 8 of
Bowen reads on the search for concept terms. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited
section of Bowen relates to an actual search of document using pattern-matching of the search
term with respect to the documents being search (see, col. 12, lines 4 to 8 of Bowen).

In order to anticipate a claim, each and every limitation of the claim must be disclosed
by the cited references. It is respectfully submitted that Bowen fails to disclose or suggest the
limitations set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully
submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Bowen.

Similarly, independent claims 10, 15, 19, 22, and 27 include limitations similar to
those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent
claims 10, 15, 19, 22, and 27 are not anticipated by Bowen.

Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, at least for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are not anticipated by Bowen. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7, 9, 19-21, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,822 of Braden-Harder et al. ("Braden"). Claims 10, 13, 14, 27, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,864,871 of Kitain et al. ("Kitain"). Claims 11-12, 15-18, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen in view Braden and U.S. Patent No. 6,006,225 of Bowman et al. ("Bowman").

It is respectfully submitted that Braden, Kitain, and Bowman also fail to disclose or suggest the limitations set forth above. There is no mention in the cited references of reformulating an initial query using conceptually related terms to form a new query and the actual search is performed based on the new query. Therefore, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-35 are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.
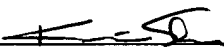
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: _9/14/2004_

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